

Claims

1. A curtain assembly for covering an opening, comprising:
 - a. an elongated curtain having a first end mounted at a first end of the opening, an opposing second end that is moveable between the first end of the opening and an opposing second end of the opening, and opposing lateral sides slidably attached to opposing sides of the opening; and
 - b. a track on each of the opposing sides of the opening, wherein each track has a securing member for securely engaging an edge of a lateral side of said curtain, wherein at least one track is slidably mounted to a side of the opening such that said slidably mounted track can slide toward the opening to decrease tension on said curtain or slide away from the opening to increase tension on said curtain.
2. A curtain assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first end of said curtain is mounted for rotation about a roller, wherein said roller can be rotated to either wind or unwind said curtain about said roller, thereby allowing said second end of said curtain to be moved between the first end of the opening and the second end of the opening.
3. A curtain assembly according to claim 1, wherein said securing member comprises a substantially U-shaped edge facing away from the opening for receiving a substantially U-shaped edge of said curtain facing toward the opening.

4. A curtain assembly according to claim 1, wherein said securing member comprises an elongated rod for engaging an elongated channel formed along said edge of said lateral side of said curtain.

5. A curtain assembly according to claim 1, further comprising means for biasing said slidably mounted track away from the opening to increase tension on said curtain.

6. A curtain assembly according to claim 5, wherein said biasing means comprises:

a. a connecting member fixedly attached to the side of the opening and extending through an elongated slot formed in said slidably mounted track, wherein said connecting member holds said slidably mounted track adjacent the side of the opening while allowing said slidably mounted track to slide toward the opening to decrease tension on said curtain or to slide away from the opening to increase tension on said curtain; and

b. a spring assembly attached to said slidably mounted track, wherein said spring assembly comprises a spring that engages said connecting member to bias an end of said elongated slot in closest proximity to said opening toward said connecting member such that tension is increased on said curtain.

7. A curtain assembly according to claim 5, wherein said biasing means comprises:

a. a connecting member fixedly attached to the side of the opening and extending through an elongated diagonal slot formed in said slidably mounted track, wherein said connecting member holds said slidably mounted track adjacent the side of

the opening while allowing said slidably mounted track to slide diagonally upward toward the opening to decrease tension on said curtain or to slide diagonally downward away from the opening to increase tension on said curtain; and

b. a flange located at a bottom end of said slidably mounted track such that as a leading edge of said second end of said curtain approaches the second end of the opening, said leading edge will engage said flange and thereby urge said slidably mounted track diagonally downward away from the opening to increase tension on said curtain.

8. A curtain assembly according to claim 5, further comprising means for urging said slidably mounted track toward the opening to decrease tension on said curtain.

9. A curtain assembly according to claim 8, wherein said urging means comprises:

a. a connecting member fixedly attached to the side of the opening and extending through an elongated slot formed in said slidably mounted track, wherein said connecting member holds said slidably mounted track adjacent the side of the opening while allowing said slidably mounted track to slide toward the opening to decrease tension on said curtain or to slide away from the opening to increase tension on said curtain; and

b. a cam plate mounted on said slidably mounted track and having a cam surface for engaging said connecting member, wherein said cam surface is operable to engage said connecting member and thereby urge said slidably mounted track to slide toward the opening to decrease tension on said curtain.

10. A curtain assembly according to claim 9, wherein said cam plate includes a notch adjacent said cam surface for receiving said connecting member and thereby releasably securing said slidably mounted track in a position such that said tension on said curtain is decreased.

11. A curtain assembly according to claim 6, wherein said slidably mounted track is mounted to the side of the opening such that said track can move in a direction substantially perpendicular to the plane of the opening to decrease tension on said curtain and wherein said biasing means further comprises a spring member mounted to said connecting member for urging said track against the side of the opening.

12. A curtain assembly for covering an opening, comprising:

a. an elongated curtain having a first end mounted at a first end of the opening, an opposing second end that is moveable between the first end of the opening and an opposing second end of the opening, and opposing lateral sides slidably attached to opposing sides of the opening; and

b. a track on each of the opposing sides of the opening, wherein each track has a securing member for securely engaging an edge of a lateral side of said curtain, wherein at least one track is mounted to a side of the opening such that said track can move in a direction substantially perpendicular to the plane of the opening to decrease tension on said curtain.

13. A curtain assembly according to claim 12, further comprising means for biasing said at least one track towards the side of the opening.

14. A curtain assembly according to claim 13, wherein said biasing means comprises:

a. a connecting member having a first end fixedly attached to the side of the opening, an intermediate portion extending through a hole formed in said at least one track, and a second end having means for holding said at least one track adjacent the side of the opening; and

b. a spring member mounted to said intermediate portion between said at least one track and said holding means, wherein said spring member biases said at least one track against the side of the opening.

15. A curtain assembly for covering an opening, comprising:

a. an elongated curtain having a first end mounted at a first end of the opening, an opposing second end that is moveable between the first end of the opening and an opposing second end of the opening, and opposing lateral sides slidably attached to opposing sides of the opening; and

b. a track on each of the opposing sides of the opening, wherein each track has a securing member for securely engaging an edge of a lateral side of said curtain.

16. A curtain assembly according to claim 15, wherein said securing member comprises a substantially U-shaped edge facing away from the opening for receiving a substantially V-shaped edge of said curtain facing toward the opening.

17. A curtain assembly according to claim 16, wherein the apex of said V-shaped edge comprises a hem along said apex.

18. A curtain assembly according to claim 16, wherein the apex of said V-shaped edge comprises is heat-sealed along said apex.

19. A curtain assembly according to claim 15, wherein said securing member comprises an elongated rod for engaging an elongated channel formed along said edge of said lateral side of said curtain.

20. A curtain assembly according to claim 15, wherein each said securing member comprises at least two substantially U-shaped edges facing away from the opening, each for receiving an edge of a curtain, wherein said at least two substantially U-shaped edges are spaced apart relative to the plane of the opening for securing at least two adjacent curtains in spaced relationship.

21. A curtain assembly according to claim 15, wherein one track is below a horizontal face of the opening and said securing member on said one track comprises a substantially U-shaped member for receiving said edge of said lateral side of said curtain.

22. A curtain assembly according to claim 15, wherein one track comprises opposing ramps on each side of the opening and said securing member on said one track comprises

a substantially U-shaped member for receiving said edge of said lateral side of said curtain.

23. The curtain assembly according to claim 22, wherein each ramp has an angle less than or equal to forty-five degrees.

24. The curtain assembly according to claim 22, wherein each ramp has an angle less than or equal to twenty-five degrees.